

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, IR

SUBJ: INDO-PAK RELATIONS: WARM AND COOL AND CONCERN ABOUT
THE SHAH

SUMMARY:

PAKS ARE IN TOUCH WITH DELHI TO SET TIME FOR
NEGOTIATING RESTORATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL. GOP
PRESS STILL TAKING USUAL POTSHOTS AT INDIA, HOWEVER, AND
HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER INDIAN SEDUCTION OF SHAH.
END SUMMARY.

1. GOP SOURCES ANNOUNCED TO PRESS MAY 9 THAT PAKS WERE
IN COMMUNICATION WITH INDIA OVER DATE FOR BEGINNING
NEGOTIATIONS ON RESTORATION OF POST AND TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS LINKS AND TRAVEL BETWEEN INDIA AND
PAKISTAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SOURCES INDICATED THAT
TALKS MIGHT BEGIN IN ISLAMABAD DURING MONTH OF MAY.

2. WHILE BHUTTO AND OTHER GOP LEADERS IN RECENT WEEKS
HAVE PUBLICLY TAKEN GENERALLY RESTRAINED, REASONABLY
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OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH

INDIA, GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS STILL PERIODICALLY REVERTS TO INDIA-BAITING. ON SAME DAY PRESS REPORTED ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT ON RESTORATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL LINKS, PAKISTAN TIMES CARRIED LENGTHY FEATURE ARTICLE ON EDITORIAL PAGE DENOUNCING INDIA FOR MULTITUDE OF SINS INCLUDING ALLEGED EFFORTS TO USE PAK POWS AS LEVERAGE TO FORCE "PAKISTAN'S SUBMISSION TO A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY REQUIRING IT TO DENY ANY POLITICAL OR CULTURAL ROOTS AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR ITS SEPARATE INDEPENDENT STATEHOOD, TO ACCEPT ITS POSITION AS A REGIONAL UNIT OF THE SUBCONTINENT AS IN THE DAYS OF THE FORMER BRITISH EMPIRE, TO AGREE TO PERMANENT MILITARY IMBALANCE IN INDIA'S FAVOR, AND TO RECOGNIZE INDIAN OCCUPATION OF KASHMIR AS A CLOSED QUESTION".

3. UNUSUAL TWIST IN OTHERWISE VINTAGE VITUPERATIONS WAS ARTICLE'S CAUTIOUS CAVILLING AT SHAH OF IRAN FOR SUCCUMBING TO INDIAN BLANDISHMENTS. ASSERTING THAT SHAH HAD ONLY RECENTLY UNDERTAKEN "MASSIVE" REARMAMENT PROGRAM LARGELY AS RESULT INDIA'S SOVIET-BACKED EXPANSIONISM, ARTICLE COMPLAINED THAT INDIA HAD RESPONDED BY EXERTING ITS DIPLOMATIC WILES ON SHAH. SUCCESS OF THESE NEFARIOUS EFFORTS HAD BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY FACT THAT "INDIA HAS MADE ENORMOUS GAINS FROM IRAN" AND "HAS EMERGED AS IRAN'S FIRST PRIORITY IN DEVELOPMENT". MOREOVER, "THE SHAHANSHAH HAS BEEN STRONGLY PERSUADED THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE IDENTICAL". ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL SEE THE LIGHT REGARDING INDIA'S TRUE INTENTIONS.

4. COMMENT: PAK OFFICIALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN SOMEWHAT ABACK BY BURGEONING INDIA-IRAN TIES BUT HAVE AVOIDED PUBLIC COMMENT IN DEFERENCE TO SHAH'S WELL-KNOWN SENSITIVITIES. PAKISTAN TIMES ARTICLE IS FIRST WE HAVE SEEN TO REFLECT THIS CONCERN ON SEMI-OFFICIAL LEVEL, ALTHOUGH IT CAREFULLY REFRAINS FROM DIRECT CRITICISM OF SHAH.
BYROADE

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